

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are now pending in this application. There are no claim amendments.

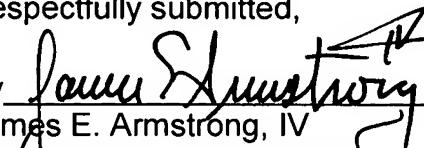
Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kitada, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0077413).

Kitada and the claimed invention share a common inventor, Mr. Mitsuru Kitada. Enclosed herewith, the applicants respectfully submit a declaration by Mr. Kitada under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 stating that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the cited reference was derived from Mr. Kitada and is, thus, not the invention "by another." Accordingly, the cited reference does not constitute prior art against the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Therefore, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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